

Text Amendment Application No. 47
Building Commissioner, City of Boston
Rule for Rounding Numbers

TO THE ZONING COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF BOSTON:

The Advisor to the Zoning Commission, acting at the request of the Building Commissioner of the City of Boston and in accord with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956 as amended, hereby petitions for an amendment to the text of the Boston Zoning Code as follows:

1. By changing the number of clause (38A) of Section 2-1, respecting the definition of "Row house", to the following number:

(38B)

2. By inserting, following clause (38) of Section 2-1, the following clause:

(38A) "Rounding numbers, rule for", when a decimal must be rounded to the nearest whole number, as in the case of off-street parking and loading requirements, or to the nearest foot, under Section 18-2 (as most recently amended on _____, 1974); and when the only digit dropped is .5; then if the last digit retained is an even number, it shall be left unchanged; but if the last digit retained is an odd number, it shall be increased to the next higher digit. In the case of rounding to the nearest half foot under Section 18-2 (as most recently amended on _____, 1974), if the only digits dropped are .25, the preceding digit shall be left unchanged; but if the only digits dropped are .75, the preceding digit shall be raised to the next higher number.

MEMORANDUM

September 26, 1974

TO: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FROM: Robert T. Kenney, Director

SUBJECT: Zoning Text Amendment Application No. 47:
Rule for Rounding Numbers

The Building Commissioner of the City of Boston has requested that the staff of the Zoning Commission prepare an amendment to the Boston Zoning Code which would incorporate a rule for rounding decimals to whole numbers, as is necessary in the case of calculation of off-street parking and loading requirements. He quoted a rule from Weeks and Adkins, Second Course in Algebra (Boston: Ginn and Co., 1971 and 1962), which deals with dropping the digit 5: "When the only digit to be dropped is 5, then if the last digit retained is even, leave it unchanged; if the last digit retained is odd, increase it by one."

The attached amendment incorporates this principle and extends the principle to the rounding of numbers to whole and half feet, to cover calculations required by an amendment dealing with conformity with existing building line (Section 18-2). This amendment was heard on August 7 and was unopposed; it has not yet been voted on by the Zoning Commission.

Although the staff feels that the more common practice of always raising the digit preceding a dropped 5 to the next higher number is preferable in the case of off-street parking and loading requirements, it is the Building Commissioner who is responsible for enforcing the Zoning Code, and we feel his preference should be acceded to. Recommend approval.

VOTED: That the Boston Redevelopment Authority hereby authorizes the Advisor to the Zoning Commission to petition said Commission for an amendment to the text of the Boston Zoning Code which would establish rules for rounding off-street parking and loading requirements to whole numbers, and for rounding front yard depth requirements, under Section 18-2, to whole feet (in the case of detached structures) or half feet (in the case of row structures).

